(a) the proposed allocation for education during the Eleventh Five Year Plan alongwith the expected growth of education; and

(b) how much investment is expected to be provided by private sector, NGO and others?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) An allocation of Rs. 2,69,873 crore has been provided to the Ministry of Human Resource Development (Rs. 1,84,930 crore for the Department of School Education & Literacy and Rs. 84,943 crore for Department of Higher Education). This is a 4.6 fold increase over the expenditure incurred during X Five Year Plan. The share of the Plan allocation has increased from 7.7% in the X Five Year Plan to 19.4 in the XI Five Year Plan. The increased allocation during XI Five Year Plan is expected to lead to increased access while ensuring quality and inclusiveness.

(b) It is not possible to assess realistically the investment likely to be made by private sector,NGOs and others on education during XI Plan.

Coverage under MDM scheme in Karnataka

3552. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the present number of students in Karnataka, covered under the Mid-day Meal scheme for which funds have been released by the Central Government for 2007-08;

(b) whether there is any proposal to widen the scope of the scheme in the near future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD-ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) For the year 2007-08, Central Assistance for Mid Day Meal was released for 38,52,508 children at primary stage in Karnataka. In addition, Central Assistance was released for 9,78,113 children at upper primary stage in 74 educationally backward blocks in the State with effect from 1.10.2007.

(b) and (c) From the financial year 2008-09, the scheme will be expanded to cover children studying in classes VI-VIII in eligible schools/centers all over the State of Karnataka. By this expansion, the number of children at upper primary level will increase to 20,31,143.

Courses through internet

3553. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of courses are being provided by foreign universities/ colleges through the internet;

(b) if so, the details of institutions/colleges offering such courses;

(c) whether the Central Government proposes to regulate the distance and online education including such courses; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government do not maintain such information.

(c) and (d) A proposal to establish Distance Education Council through an Act of Parliament is under consideration.

UGC grants to Andhra Pradesh

3554. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of U.G.C. grants released to Andhra Pradesh during 2006-07 and 2007-08.

(b) whether such release is in proportion to that of the universities in the other States; and

(c) if not, what are the guidelines for release of such grants to universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) According to the University Grants Commission (UGC), it has released Rs. 70.98 crore in 2006-07 and Rs. 23.82 crore in 2007-08 to universities including institutions 'deemed-to-be-universities' in Andhra Pradesh. The UGC provides financial assistance to eligible universities/colleges which are included under Section 2(f) and declared fit to receive central assistance under Section 12 B of the UGC Act, 1956 as per approved pattern of assistance under various schemes. Allocation of the grants under a Five year Plan by the Commission is not made State-wise, but to various universities/ colleges on the recommendations of the duly constituted expert committees and the availability of overall fund with the UGC. No inter-State comparison can be made because the quantum of grants would depend on the number of State Universities (for which only development grants are given), Central Universities (for which both development and maintenance grants are given) as well as institutions 'deemed-to-be-universities' which are eligible for financial assistance from the UGC. The pattern of assistance is uniform and based on parameters laid down by the Commission from time to time. Universities/Colleges located in educationally backward areas and young universities are given special development grants by the Commission.

Non-provision of free education to SCs and STs

†3555. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that poor SC/ST students are not being provided free education in the schools/colleges inspite of the fact that they got land on concessional rates;

(b) the details of the schools/colleges where poor SC/ST students have been provided educational on concessional rates during the last three years; and

(c) the details of action taken by Government against the schools/colleges, in case they are violating the rules?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.